# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4359
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
ADULTERATED MILK
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Antibiotic being used for adulterating milk` as reported in the `Times of India` dated March 29, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported;

(c) whether Gentamicin is harmful for kidney and creates health problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the samples detected by the Government; and

(e) the corrective action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE ( DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : The study conducted by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad in the city ofHyderabad reveals that a particular brand of milk was found to contain gentamicin, an antibiotic, ranging between 40-80 ml. It is suspected that gentamicin was added to preserve the milk.

(c ) & (d) : Gentamicin is known for its ototoxicity and nephrotoxicity besides the potential threat of building up antibiotic resistant organisms or destruction of the normal intestinal microflora.

(e) : Sale of milk and milk products containing substances not found in milk except as provided in the Rules, is already prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/UTs. have been advised to step-up surveillance measures and take appropriate legal action against the offenders. The Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture has also constituted a Multi-disciplinary Committee to study the range of naturally occurring constituents of milk in milch animals.